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IAEA-EURATOM: A draft agreement on the safeguards required by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was completed in Vienna last week. The long debate over the proper relationship between IAEA safeguards and EURATOM's own regional safeguards system was ended by a compromise limiting the role of IAEA inspectors. The draft has now been sent to EURATOM's five nonnuclear-weapons members and is likely to be formally approved by the Council of Ministers of the European Community in late September. Ratification of the NPT by the five would probably follow shortly thereafter. Although France, the sixth EURATOM member, will not sign the NPT, it could obstruct council approval of the safeguards agreement. The EC Commission, however, believes that France will merely make a number of minor objections to the agreement, perhaps paving the way for French abstention from Council action.

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